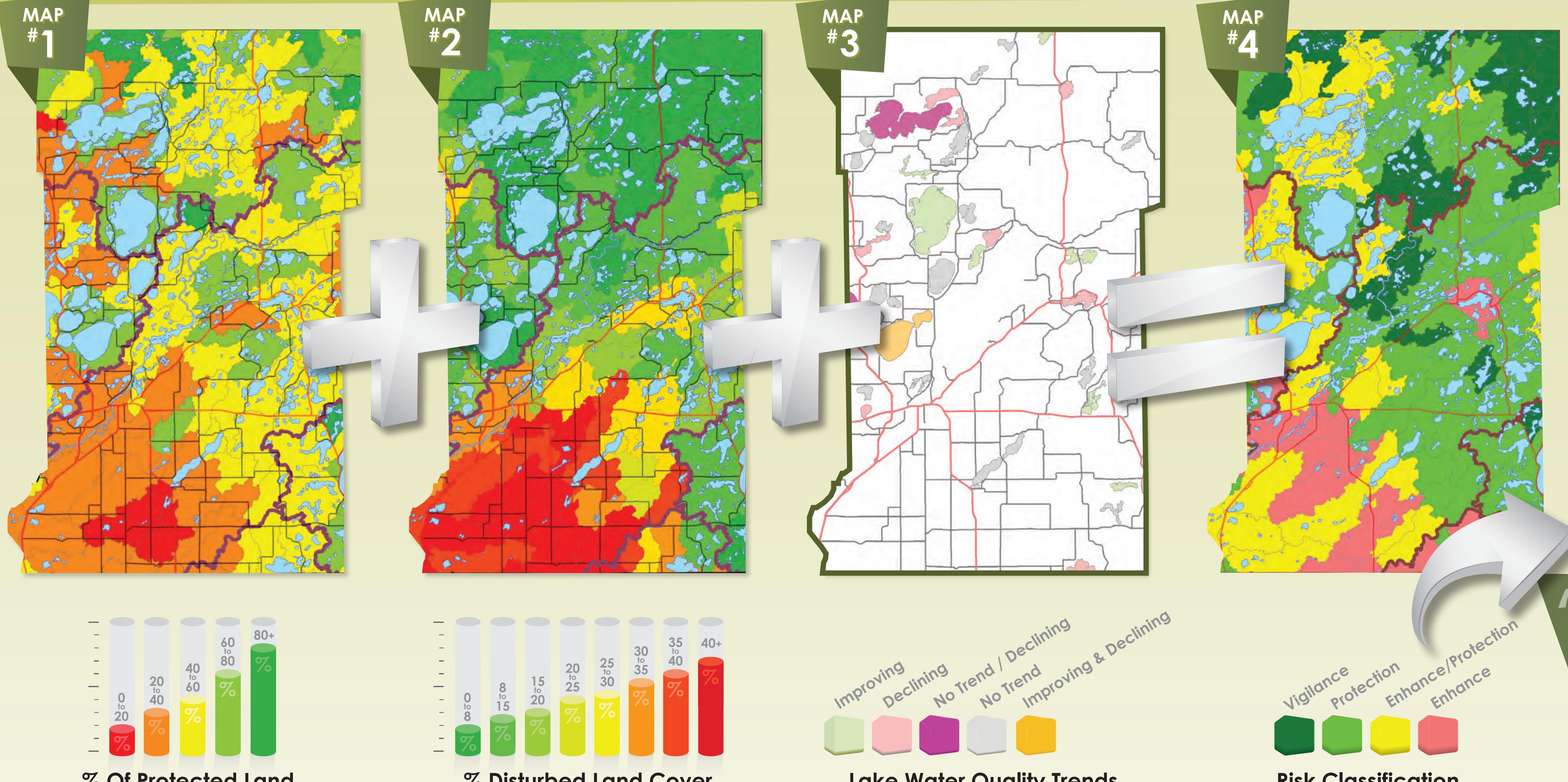


Our protection approach: Determining risk...

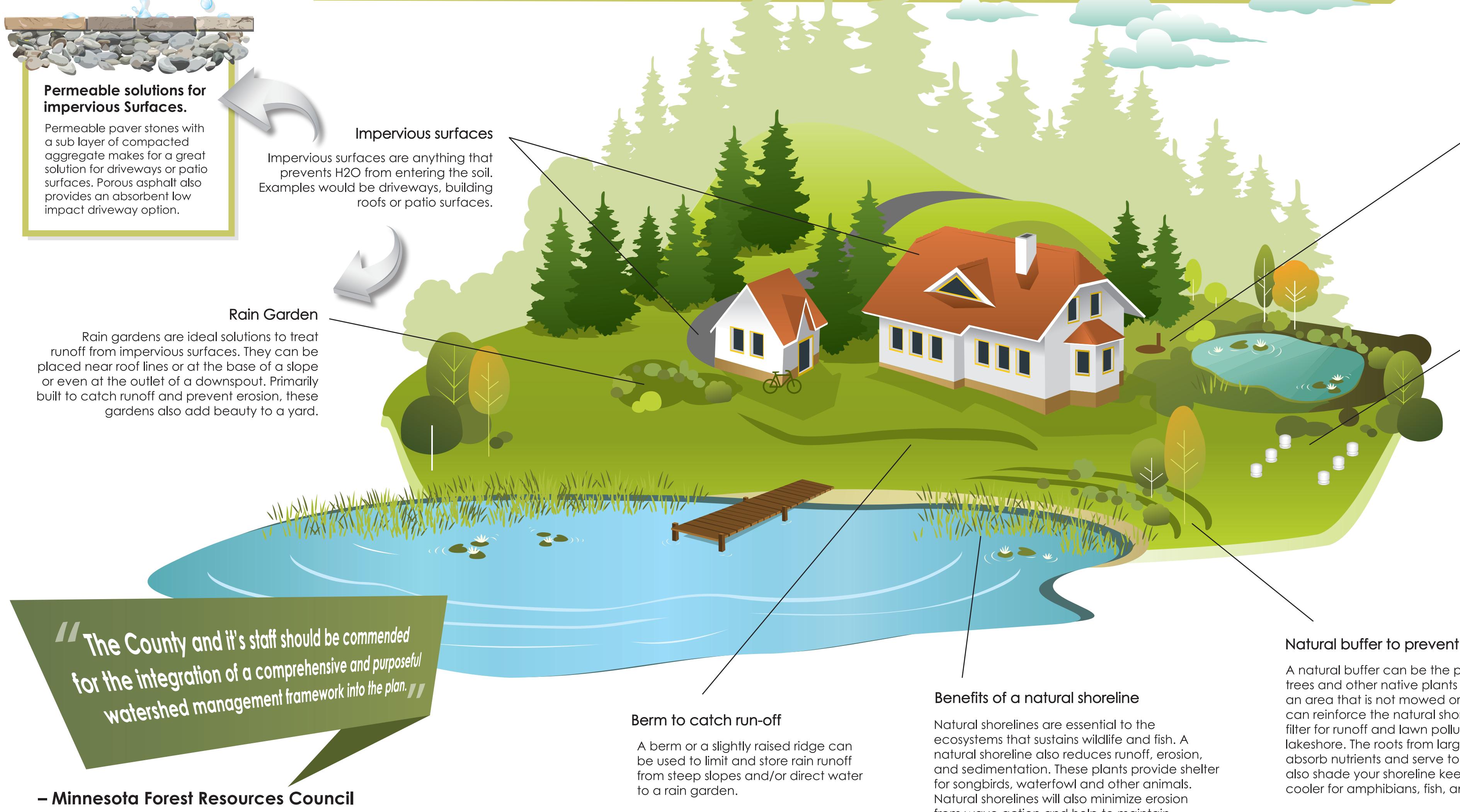
Protected Land Use + Disturbed Land Cover + Water Quality Trends = Risk Classification



The distinction between public and private lands is important. From a planning perspective, watersheds with a high percentage of public land are not as at-risk for future water quality impacts and may not require the same level of focus as watersheds with a smaller percentage of public land. Public land is considered to be already in a protected state as are water bodies such as lakes, streams, and wetlands.

You can help protect our waters.

How to protect our waters — starting with your lake-shore property.



- Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Sample watershed: Lake Ossie

Lake Ossawinnamakee: Heavily forested | low "protected" lands | Cisco refuge lake

Heavily Forested areas around the watershed
Lake Ossawinnamakee boasts one of the most heavily forested areas around a watershed in Crow Wing County. 92% of the area around the lake is still forested or un-disturbed.

Protection from development
Alarming! Only 20 to 40% of the forested area is protected from development.

Risk Classification Enhance/Protection

Although over 90% of the area around Lake Ossawinnamakee is carpeted in a relatively natural condition (forest and water), only about 33% of the land is protected from future development. This is one reason why this watershed was classified as having opportunities for further enhancement and protection. Because nearly half of the forests in this watershed are privately owned, one potential strategy is to work with landowners to develop and implement forest stewardship plans.

Forest Stewardship Plan

Forest stewardship management planning assistance for clean water protection.

Private forest landowners can look to Crow Wing County and the Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District to provide assistance for tree planting, forest stand improvement, invasive species control, forest habitat protection, and erosion control near riparian areas. Various tax incentives exist to preserve forest lands in addition to programs that can offer up to 50% financial assistance for developing and implementing forest stewardship plans.

What is the importance of Cisco?
The presence of Cisco or Tullibee in a watershed is simply a good indicator of the good health of that lake. These bait-fish thrive best in deep, well oxygenated lakes. Cisco represent a great food source for a host of game fish.

Managing Risk

Some risk factors that can be detrimental to our lakes and watersheds

Groundwater Pollution Protecting our hidden lakes



We are blessed to have abundant, clean, and safe groundwater in Crow Wing County. However, the greatest risk to groundwater contamination is ourselves. Common causes of contamination range from improper disposal or use of hazardous materials, fertilizers, herbicides, herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides to poorly designed and septic systems and abandoned water wells.

Crow Wing County coordinates regular nitrate testing and participates on local wellhead protection planning teams. We also help to identify unused and abandoned wells in sensitive groundwater areas. We also help landowners make educated choices with regard to septic and waste disposal.

Land Development Smart use of our resources



The County is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. By conducting free on-site meetings, presentations, and open houses, and having open-application meetings for projects that require a public hearing, we are able to build relationships and help recommend ways to improve riparian management or other aspects of their property while in most cases still accommodating the desires of the landowner.

Two other proactive steps we take to manage new development is holding annual contractor training workshops and offering grant programs to improve riparian properties.

Aquatic Invasive Species Eliminate AIS



Crow Wing County's waters are threatened by a number of invasive species such as zebra mussels, and Eurasian water-milfoil. AIS or aquatic invasive species are species that are not native to our country and that result in economic, health or environmental harm to us and our watersheds.

Crow Wing County supports the efforts of the DNR, local lake associations, and others in stopping the spread of AIS using the best man-power, technology, resources, and regulatory solutions available.

Let's get started!

We're here to help you protect our waters.

<http://www.crowwing.us>

Visit our website at any time to find more useful info. Select "Departments" then "Land Services" then "Environmental Services" then "Water & Wetlands".

Call 218-824-1125

Or call Crow Wing County Land Services to speak with one of our specialists. We're ready to help you manage your lakeshore or forested property.



CROW WING COUNTY 2013-2023 WATER PLAN

A Watershed Protection Approach to Local Water Management

